

General practice (GP) teaching sits at the heart of the BSMS curriculum and Year 4 is a chance for students to become integrated in a GP team for up to four weeks.

At BSMS Year 4 students receive in-house GP simulation teaching and preparatory lectures just prior to and following their GP placement (“bookend days”).

Learning approach and PebblePad sign-offs

Through an “apprenticeship” model of learning on GP placement, students should be introduced to general practice in a supported environment by seeing patients with a range of problems presenting in primary care. Sign-offs are via a new online platform called PebblePad.

Students are responsible for ensuring that they obtain all of the necessary sign-offs. Logbook sign offs include: Induction, student surgeries, clinical experience, clinical skills, organisational tasks, public health task, GP referral letter, prescribing task.

Student led surgeries

We recognise that timetabling will differ from surgery to surgery, but should include at least two sessions of student-led surgeries per week, opportunistic presentations such as minor symptoms, chronic disease, multi-morbidity and basic prescribing.

We expect BSMS students will progress quickly in their ability to see patients independently and most are expected to start consulting alone within 3-4 sessions. We know that student-led surgeries are highly valued as they are well evaluated by students in feedback we receive from student surveys.

Please note that student attendance at non-NHS services may not be covered by state indemnity. This could include private providers (eg, out of hours or care home medical services) that operate under NHS logos. If unsure, GPs should discuss with their medical defence organisation.

All patients who are seen by a student must also be seen by a GP.



Core concepts for consultations in GP

At BSMS we use a ‘core concepts’ (or ‘strategic principles’) approach to consultations. Examples include ‘doctor as drug’, ‘golden minute’, ‘incremental management’ and ‘buying time’. Students are taught these prior to their placement and are asked to look out for them in action in consultations in general practice.

If you would like further details, please email the team.

Rotations

There are seven possible four-week rotations to choose from, which run from mid-September to mid-June. Students will attend for four days per week, across the four weeks.

Ask our team about the dates for the academic year you are interested in teaching.

Payment

£1,200 per student for teaching is payable, plus additional funding for equipment and professional development.

GP case presentation

Students are required to present one GP case from their placement after returning to BSMS. This should be based on a patient seen while on placement. Only basic details are required, and anonymity is paramount. This should not describe unprofessional behaviours or errors.

Induction

All students must receive an induction, much of which can be provided by the practice manager, covering core areas such as confidentiality, personal safety, documentation of consultations, timetable, contacting surgery if ill, etc.

Individual research project/personal study

Students attending before Easter should have one day per week to undertake their Individual Research Project (IRP). This is supervised by BSMS, and typically takes place on a Monday. Surgeries may select an alternative day subject to agreement from the student's project supervisor. After Easter, students will use this day for personal study/revision.

Sample weekly timetable

(please develop a timetable to fit in with your routine clinical activities, the below is just an example)

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	IRP/personal study	Student led surgery	Chronic disease clinic	Student led surgery	Chronic disease clinic
LUNCH	IRP/personal study	Home visit	Home visit	GP tutorial	Telephone consultations
PM	IRP/personal study	Community visits	Student led surgery	GP surgery	Personal study

Student feedback

Each student is asked to provide feedback at the end of their placement, which will be collated and sent to you at the end of the year. The course is evaluated mid-way through the term and at the end.

We ask the students for their views and opinions on their time in general practice and the teaching they received. We can then share this with you during the summer vacation period. This feedback will also form part of your structured reference should you request one from BSMS.

Feedback from a Year 4 student

"I have been encouraged to become more proactive in the GP setting, taking histories, examining patients, formulating differential diagnoses. Teaching between consultations is excellent and the placements have been very useful."

Year 4 contacts

Quality and Placements Team

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This guide is intended to give you a brief overview of the teaching in Year 4. There is more information available in the Year 4 GP Teacher's handbook. Please contact us if you experience problems or have any questions.